

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A roof module comprising:
an outer skin having a slot;
a lid moveable between a closed position and an open position;
at least one holding element for said lid receivable in said slot; and
a covering element movable between a closed position in which said covering element is received in said slot and an open position in which said covering element is removed from said slot to allow said at least one holding element to access said slot.
2. The roof module as claimed in claim 1, wherein said covering element is below said outer skin when said covering element is in said open position.
3. The roof module as claimed in claim 1, wherein said covering element is movable in a connecting link guide mounted below said outer skin.
4. The roof module as claimed in claim 1, wherein said covering element includes a body and a strip protruding from said body that engages said slot.
5. The roof module as claimed in claim 4, wherein said body includes at least one drip rail.
6. The roof module as claimed in claim 4, further including at least one seal mounted on said body of said covering element, and said at least one seal rests against said outer skin when said covering element is in said closed position.
7. The roof module as claimed in claim 4, further including at least one seal mounted on said strip, wherein said at least one seal rests against said outer skin when said covering element is in said closed position.
8. The roof module as claimed in claim 1, wherein said covering element is made of metal.

9. The roof module as claimed in claim 1, wherein said covering element is made of plastic.
10. The roof module as claimed in claim 1, wherein a color of said covering element matches a color of said roof module.
11. The roof module as claimed in claim 1, wherein said covering element includes a contact surface engagable by said at least one holding element to move said covering element from said closed position into said open position.
12. The roof module as claimed in claim 1, further including a spring that urges said covering element into said closed position.
13. The roof module as claimed in claim 1, further including a coupling formation provided at said covering element which is engagable by a carrier to move said covering element.
14. The roof module as claimed in claim 4 further including at least one seal mounted on said strip of said covering element, wherein said at least one seal rests against said outer skin when said covering element is in said closed position.
15. The roof module as claimed in claim 1, further including two connecting link guides, wherein said covering element is moveably mounted to the roof module by said two connecting link guides.

16. The roof module as claimed in claim 15, further including a mounting angle mounted on said covering element and said outer skin, and wherein each of said two connecting link guides further includes a first connecting link bolt mounted in said covering element and a first connecting link in said mounting angle, and wherein said first connecting link bolt engages said first connecting link.

17. The roof module as claimed in claim 15, further including a mounting angle mounted on said covering element and said outer skin, and wherein each of said two connecting link guides further includes a second connecting link bolt mounted in said mounting angle and a second connecting link in said covering element, and wherein said second connecting link bolt engages said second connecting link.

18. The roof module as recited in claim 1 wherein said covering element is rigid.

19. A method for opening a lid of a roof module comprising the steps of:
 - providing an outer skin having a slot, at least one holding element for the lid that is receivable in said slot, and a covering element received in said slot;
 - moving said lid from a closed position to an open position;
 - removing said covering element from said slot; and
 - sliding said at least one holding element for said lid in said slot.